UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.237/52
28 January 1994

Original: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Ninth session
Geneva, 7-18 February 1994
Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

MATTERS RELATING TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES

PROVISION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Progress report on the training programme to promote the implementation of the Convention

Note by the interim secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	2
A.	Scope of the note	1 - 2	2
B.	Possible action by the Committee	3	2
II.	PROGRESS REPORT ON TRAINING PROGRAMME	4 - 14	2 - 4
A.	Administrative and financial status	4 - 5	2
B.	Background	6 - 10	2 - 3
C.	Project activities to date	11 - 14	3 - 4
III.	FURTHER STEPS	15 - 16	4

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Scope of the note

1. At its eighth session, the Committee was informed that funding for the one-year pilot phase of the training programme had been endorsed by the Participants' Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) held in Beijing in May 1993, and that the pilot phase was expected to start in September or October 1993. The Committee expressed its appreciation to all partners working with the interim secretariat on the development of this training programme and looked forward to receiving information on its implementation.

2. This note provides the Committee with a brief progress report on the activities undertaken so far within the project.

B. Possible action by the Committee

3. The Committee is invited to take note of the progress achieved so far and to comment on the further development of this programme.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

A. Administrative and financial status

4. The pilot phase of the training programme was endorsed by the GEF Participants' Meeting in Beijing in May 1993 as a technical assistance project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The preparatory assistance phase of the training programme formally started in July 1993, when a programme officer was recruited.

5. The corresponding UNDP project document was submitted in September 1993. The final approval of the project document was received on 17 January 1994.

B. Background

6. The training programme to promote the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was established in 1993 as a joint effort of the interim secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in collaboration with the secretariats of the GEF, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and UNDP, with the assistance of the UNEP/WMO Information Unit on Climate Change (IUCC). These organizations constitute the Steering Group of the training programme.

7. The training programme aims at strengthening the institutional capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to address the causes and effects of climate change and to undertake activities in pursuit of the objective of the Convention. During the pilot phase, the training programme will develop a replicable methodology for initiating a process of multi-sectoral policy dialogue in participating countries as input into future capacity-building, policy development and project coordination activities. This methodology is being tested and refined in three countries during the pilot phase. Through this process the training programme will support, in each country, the preparation of a national strategy to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

8. The programme cycle in each of the participating countries comprises the following steps and activities:

(a) Survey mission to establish a work plan with local teams which will organize national activities and lead the preparation of a national strategy to implement the UNFCCC;

(b) Commencement of development of a national implementation strategy by local institutions; provision of technical assistance to local institutions preparing modules for national workshops;

(c) First national workshop on the global and national dimensions of climate change and the Convention; the workshop will also serve to set priorities and a work plan as well as to identify institutional frameworks and coordinating mechanisms and processes;

(d) Provision of training on managing policy dialogues to key actors involved in coordinating meetings to discuss elements of the national implementation strategy;

(e) Organization of consultative meetings to discuss the progress of the national implementation strategy; ongoing provision of assistance to local institutions preparing the national implementation strategy;

(f) Review of the national implementation strategy;

(g) Culminating national workshop where the national implementation strategy will be presented to key decision-makers by local institutions;

(h) Evaluation of the training programme at the country and global levels.

9. The training programme cooperates actively with the UNEP/WMO Information Unit on Climate Change (IUCC) for the preparation of training materials. With IUCC's assistance, local modules developed by country teams will undergo the same rigorous review as that of the existing IUCC "fact sheets".

10. A number of institutions, national and international, have also been working with the training programme, and have expressed their interest in coordinating their training activities with this programme, so as to maximize resources and impacts.

C. Project activities to date

11. Based on recommendations by the programme's Steering Group, the Governments of Lithuania, Zimbabwe and Viet Nam were invited, in September 1993, to participate in the pilot phase of the training programme.

12. The training programme commenced with survey missions by the Programme Officer to the participating countries in November and December 1993. The survey missions served to establish working relationships with local teams composed of representatives from various government ministries and other sectors of society. In each of the countries, the local teams will lead the organization of national workshops and the preparation of a national implementation strategy.

13. The first national workshop is scheduled to take place in each of the three countries by June 1994 and the culminating national workshops by January 1995. A detailed progress report on the national workshop will be presented for the tenth session of the Committee.

14. In order to provide up-to-date information on the training programme, a seminar will be organized for interested delegations during the ninth session of the Committee. Details concerning the time and venue of the seminar will be announced at the start of the session.

III. FURTHER STEPS

15. The overall objective is to develop a comprehensive training programme at the country level which can be replicated in other countries beyond the pilot phase. It is expected that the experience gained in the three pilot phase countries will result in curricula, training packages and guidelines which will be used to assist other countries in developing a national strategy to implement the Convention, as well as being disseminated to other institutions involved in similar undertakings.

16. Depending on the initial results of the pilot phase, plans will be drawn up to ensure that the training programme can be implemented in other countries immediately after the pilot phase in 1995.

*****